

## Message Text

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STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 ERDA-05 IO-10 OIC-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05

BIB-01 /126 W

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P R 091917Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8321

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 08976

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR

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SUBJECT: FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE -- MARCH 1975

REFS: (A) PARIS 7677; (B) PARIS A-125; (C) PARIS 7730;  
(D) PARIS 7313; (E) PARIS 6001; (F) PARIS 7267

SUMMARY. MARCH PROVED TO BE A POLITICALLY QUIET MONTH IN FRANCE, PUNCTUATED PRINCIPALLY BY LABOR AND AGRICULTURAL DISPUTES WHICH REMAINED UNSETTLED AT MONTH'S END. IN THE POLITICAL HIATUS BEFORE THE APRIL RECONVENING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, EXISTING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CURRENTS CONTINUED UNDISTURBED. INFLATION REMAINED TEMPORARILY IN CHECK, FRANCE'S TRADE BALANCE SHOWED A MODEST MONTHLY SURPLUS, BUT THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REMAINS GLOOMY. CHIRAC KEPT HIS HOLD ON THE UDR, ALTHOUGH SOME GAULLIST DEPUTIES THREATENED TO BOLT TO THE RI; THE CENTRISTS CONTINUE THEIR QUEST FOR UNITY; AND THE LEFT WAS EMBARRASSED BY CHIRAC'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. GISCARD'S POPULARITY REMAINED STEADY. E//D  
SUMMARY.

1. LABOR AND AGRICULTURE UNREST. THE LABOR SCENE, THOUGH PUNCTUATED WITH IRRITATING DISTURBANCES, CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE THE "DISCIPLINARY" EFFECT WHICH FEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INSPIRED IN THE WORKING CLASS, DESPITE EXHORTATIONS FROM UNIONS AND LEFT POLITICAL LEADERS TO ACTIVELY CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY PROGRAM AS RESPONSIBLE FOR RISING UNEMPLOYMENT. EVEN THE PERSISTING WORKER AGITATION AT RENAULT, NOW IN ITS EIGHTH WEEK (REF A) SUGGESTS A CAUTIOUS WORKER ATTITUDE AND RESISTANCE TO UNION APPEALS FOR MILITANT ACTION AS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING MATTERS TO THE BARGAINING TABLE. IN ADDITION TO THE RENAULT DISTURBANCES, WHICH HAVE DOMINATED THE LABOR PAGES OF THE FRENCH PRESS, THE SOCIAL SCENE WAS MARKED BY DEMONSTRATIONS BY WINE GROWERS PROTESTING THE IMPORTATION OF CHEAP ITALIAN WINES AND BY FISHERMEN DEMANDING LOWER PRICES FOR FUEL AND TIGHTER CONTROL OF FISH IMPORTS.

2. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN STAYING OUT OF THE RENAULT SITUATION WHILE HOPING THAT MANAGEMENT'S CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRM RESISTANCE TO LABOR TACTICS AND WAGE DEMANDS WILL SUCCEED. BUT IN THE CASE OF THE WINE GROWERS AND FISHERMEN, THE GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED ITS TRADITIONAL SENSITIVITY TO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.

IN ORDER TO PLACATE THE WINEGROWERS THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED AND WILL ASSIST THE FRENCH WINE INDUSTRY DECISION TO HALT THE IMPORT OF ITALIAN WINES. THE EC COMMISSION HAS DECLARED THIS MOVE A VIOLATION

OF THE ROME TREATY.

3. DEFENSE REFORMS. CONSISTENT WITH THE GISCARDIAN PHILOSOPHY OF "CHANGE WITHOUT RISK", THE GOVERNMENT IN MARCH REACTED TO DISCONTENT IN THE ARMED FORCES (REF B) BY INITIATING CERTAIN REFORMS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LEAVING THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES AND OVERALL DEFENSE STRATEGY BASICALLY UNCHANGED. AFTER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING ON MARCH 4, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE PAY OF CONSCRIPTS WOULD BE RAISED FROM 75 TO 210 FRANCS A MONTH AND DRAFTEES WOULD RECEIVE ONE FREE MONTHLY RAIL TRIP HOME. FURTHERMORE, A PROGRAM FOR RAISING PAY AND IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR CAREER OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IS UNDER REVIEW AND OUGHT TO BE PROMULGATED SOON. IN HIS MARCH 25 FIRESIDE CHAT (REF C) -- DEDICATED MOSTLY TO DEFENSE MATTERS -- GISCARD AFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO KEEP THE 12-MONTH

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FEA-01 ERDA-05 IO-10 OIC-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05

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P R 091917Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8322

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
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DRAFT AND ENDORSED THE BASICALLY GAULLIST OVERALL DEFENSE STRATEGY, INCLUDING THE MAINTENANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR FORCE, WHILE SUGGESTING AT THE SAME TIME THAT FRANCE WILL UPGRADE ITS CONVENTIONAL FORCES. HE INDICATED THAT MORE REFORMS WERE ON THE WAY WHICH WOULD ADAPT THE CONDITIONS OF MILITARY SERVICE TO THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF MODERN FRENCH YOUNG PEOPLE. THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS AMOUNTED TO A CLEVER GISCARDIAN GAMBIT DESIGNED TO DRAW THE STING FROM DISCONTENT IN THE ARMED FORCES, DIFFUSE A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSUAGE HARD-SHELL GAULLISTS FOR WHOM THE GENERAL'S DEFENSE IDEAS CONSTITUTE A NEAR-HOLY WRIT. RATHER TYPICALLY, THE PRESIDENT (AND FORMER FINANCE MINISTER) DID NOT REVEAL HOW FRANCE WOULD PAY FOR THESE REFORMS.

4. ECONOMIC TRENDS. DESPITE CONTINUING OVERALL SLUGGISH PERFORMANCE OF FRENCH ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT HELD TO ITS RESTRICTIVE ANTI-INFLATION POLICIES. TWO ECONOMIC INDICATORS TENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS VIEW THAT THESE POLICIES WERE PRODUCING RESULTS. FEBRUARY'S RATE OF INFLATION STOOD AT 0.8 PERCENT, THE SAME AS DECEMBER AND DOWN FROM 1.1 PERCENT IN JANUARY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR FRANCE'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TRADE BALANCE WAS IN THE BLACK; THE FEBRUARY SURPLUS STOOD AT 894 MILLION FRANCS. HOWEVER, THIS SURPLUS WAS DUE MORE TO A DECLINE OF IMPORTS THAN TO A RISE IN EXPORTS, DESPITE THE BIG GOVERNMENT PUSH TO SELL

FRENCH PRODUCTS ABROAD. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUED TO CLIMB, WITH 727,500 REGISTERED JOB SEEKERS (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, UP ABOUT 30,000 FROM JANUARY. ABOUT 3.8 PERCENT OF THE FRENCH LABOR FORCE IS NOW UNEMPLOYED (REF D). QUESTION REMAINS THEREFORE TO WHAT EXTENT CONTINUED REDUCTION IN RATE OF INFLATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE ACCOUNT ARE DEPENDENT ON ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN -- AND HOW MUCH LONGER GOVERNMENT CAN RESIST A MAJOR SHIFT IN ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES FROM RESTRAINT TO REFLATION.

5. THE UDR. THE UDR HELD ITS OWN IN MARCH, BUT NO MORE. A POLL PUBLISHED MARCH 31 SHOWED THAT 16 PERCENT OF

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THOSE POLLED FELT "CLOSEST" TO THE GAULLIST PARTY -- THE SAME PERCENTAGE AS FOR GISCARD'S INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS (RI). WITHIN THE PARTY APPARATUS THERE WERE OCCASIONAL SIGNS OF DISCONTENT, IN PARTICULAR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UDR GROUP PRESIDENT CLAUDE LABBE'S THINLY-VEILED CRITICISM OF SECRETARY-GENERAL CHIRAC AT THE MARCH 12-13 UDR PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE COTE D'AZUR. LABBE WARNED HIS COLLEAGUES AGAINST "SELLING OUT" GAULLIST PRINCIPLES FOR THE SAKE OF GISCARDIAN MAJORITY UNITY; CHIRAC IMMEDIATELY RETORTED THAT NO GAULLIST PRINCIPLES ARE MENACED AND SEEMINGLY CARRIED THE DAY HANDILY. BUT SIGNS OF DISCONTENT AND FLANK COVERING HAVE CONTINUED. UDR DEPUTY SECRETARIES-GENERAL NEUWIRTH AND GUENA HAVE BEEN OPENLY DECLARING THEIR EQUAL READINESS TO SUCCEED CHIRAC, THUS FURTHER DISCOURAGING THE LATTER'S EARLY DEPARTURE. RUMORS HAVE BEEN PREVALENT IN PARIS OF SOME UDR DEPUTIES READY TO BOLT TO THE RI SHORTLY BEFORE THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. "BARONS" CHABAN-DELMAS AND GUICHARD ALLEGEDLY PLAN TO DINE IN APRIL WITH MICHEL JOBERT, WHOSE NEW "MOVEMENT OF DEMOCRATS" OUTPOLLED THE CDP (AN ESTABLISHED CENTRIST PARTY IN EXISTANCE SIX YEARS) IN THE POLL REFERRED TO ABOVE BY 1 PERCENT TO 0.5 PERCENT. OLD GAULLISTS EDGAR FAURE (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT) AND VINCENT ANSQUER (MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SMALL BUSINESS) BOTH DECLARED THEIR SYMPATHY FOR GISCARD, THE FORMER PRONOUNCING HIMSELF "A GISCARDIST," THE LATTER STATING FLATLY THAT "ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE MAJORITY . . . ARE GISCARDIAN." IN SUM, ALL OF CHIRAC'S ENERGY CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR THE BASIC POLITICAL FACT THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE UDR BUT BEHAVES ENOUGH LIKE ONE TO STEAL THE GAULLISTS' "RAISON D'ETRE."

6. CENTER. THE FRENCH CENTER CONTINUED ITS SEEMINGLY PERPETUAL SEARCH FOR THE ELUSIVE HOLY GRAIL OF UNITY.

TWO DEVELOPING TENDENCIES TOOK A MORE SOLID FORM LAST MONTH. THE "GAUCHE REFORMATRICE," ANIMATED PRINCIPALLY BY MINISTER OF LABOR MICHEL DURAFOUR, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANDRE ROSSI AND CD DEPUTY JEAN-MARIE CARO, HELD AN ORGANIZING CONGRESS IN PARIS MARCH 8 AND 9. IN RETURN, OLD-LINE REFORMER PATRONS JEAN LECANUET AND

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JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER -- AGAINST WHOSE LEADERSHIP THE LEFT REFORMERS DEVELOPED - REORGANIZED THE

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INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 ERDA-05 IO-10 OIC-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /126 W

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P R 091917Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8323

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
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REFORMER MOVEMENT INTO A "FEDERATION DES REFORMATEURS," UNITING LEADERS OF THE SIX CENTRIST PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CDP, WHICH HERETOFORE HAD REMAINED ALOOF FROM THE REFORMERS; THE NEW FEDERATION WILL HOLD A CONGRESS IN EARLY JUNE. SPOKESMEN FOR EACH GROUP DENY THAT THEY WISH TO FURTHER DIVIDE A FRAGMENTED CENTER, EACH CLAIMS TO BE THE AUTHENTIC LEFT WING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY AND EACH SEES ITSELF AS THE LEAVEN FOR EVENTUAL CENTRIST UNITY. THROUGH THE REFORMER FEDERATION, LECANUET AND JJSS ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN THEIR AUTHORITY IN THE CENTRIST FAMILY; THE LEFT REFORMERS ARE SEEKING NEW IDEAS AND NEW LEADERS. THE PARIS PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT DURAFOUR AND ROSSI HAVE ASKED MINISTER OF HEALTH SIMONE VEIL -- WHO DOES NOT ASSOCIATE HERSELF WITH A POLITICAL PARTY AND WHO, ACCORDING TO POLLS, REMAINS THE MOST POPULAR MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT -- TO JOIN THEIR FORMATION, BUT MADAME VEIL, OF WHOM MANY FRENCHMEN SPEAK AS A POTENTIAL PRIME MINISTER, HAS REMAINED ALOOF.

7.LEFT IN MARCH, THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) ATTEMPTED TO RESTORE ITS PRIMACY ON THE LEFT BY A POLICY OF ALL-AZIMUTHS ACTION: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE WINEGROWERS' STRIKES IN THE SOUTH, CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE RENAULT COMPANY THROUGH SLOWDOWNS AND DEMANDS FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, ESPOUSAL OF DRAFTEE CLAIMS OF ARMY INJUSTICE AND SUPPORT FOR WILDCAT TRUCKERS' STRIKES. THE ACTIONS WERE VISIBLE AND VOCAL, BUT ACHIEVED FEW POSITIVE POLITICAL RESULTS. IN ITS RUSH TO PUBLICITY, THE PCF CONTINUED TO SEEK SPATS WITH THE GOVERNING MAJORITY. THE FIRST ROUND FOUND THE PCF THE VICTIM OF ONE OF GISCARD'S CLEVEREST POLITICAL PLOYS YET: RESPONDING TO A REQUEST FROM A

PARISIAN COMMUNIST DEPUTY TO TALK ABOUT HOUSING' GISCARD INVITED THE PCF LEADERSHIP TO COME TO THE ELYSEE ACCOMPANIED BY ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL. AN EMBARRASSED PCF CALLED THE INVITATION A CHEAP POLITICAL TRICK. THE SOCIALISTS (PS), STILL SMARTING UNDER RECENT PCF ALLEGATIONS OF OVERLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, COULD HARDLY CONTAIN THEIR GLEE: PS FIRST SECRETARY MITTERRAND SOLEMNLY OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE "OPPORTUNE" TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WITH AN CONFIDENTIAL

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EQUALLY IRONIC TONE NOTED THAT THE BEST WAY NOT TO GET INVITED TO THE ELYSEE WAS NOT TO ASK FOR AN INVITATION.

8. ROUND TWO FOUND THE PCF ACCUSING PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC OF DISTORTING PCF CRITICISM OF CURRENT MILITARY PRACTICE INTO AN ATTACK ON THE ARMY ITSELF AND FOR ALLEGEDLY SUGGESTING ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION (MARCH 19-24) THAT HE WOULD ASK SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO TEMPER THE PCF ATTACK. THE PCF PROMPTLY CLAIMED THAT CHIRAC'S ACTION WOULD BRING ABOUT AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S LEADERS INTO INTERNAL FRENCH AFFAIRS: CHIRAC APPEARED TO DUCK A DIRECT CONFRONTATION. THE POLEMIC LASTED FOR THREE DAYS AND PRODUCED NO NEW LIGHT ON THE PCF'S MILITARY POLICIES. MOST OBSERVERS GAVE THE GOVERNMENT AN EDGE IN THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE TWO INCIDENTS.

9. ON MARCH 19 THE UNITED LEFT LAUNCHED THE FIRST OF THE HUNDRED COMMON MEETINGS OF THE LEFT WHICH HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED LEFT IN LATE FEBRUARY (REF E). THE FIRST JOINT ACTION OF THE THREE UNITED LEFT PARTIES SINCE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THESE MEETINGS HAVE THUS FAR PRODUCED LITTLE PUBLIC RESPONSE AND HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY NOTEWORTHY FOR PS REFUSALS TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME OF THEM (LILLE, MARSEILLE) AND FOR SEEMINGLY TOKEN PCF PARTICIPATION (REF F). INDIVIDUAL PS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN LEFT FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE AND THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN THAT SOMETHING OVER HALF OF THE PS' NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HAS STAYED OUT OF THESE MEETINGS. THE GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THE PS IS CURRENTLY SOMNOLENT AS IT PREPARES FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPRING SESSION WHICH OPENED APRIL 2. IN SPITE OF PCF DOMINATION OF THE PUBLIC'S EYE, PS STRENGTH CONTINUES TO RISE; AN INTEROPINION POLL CONFIRMS THAT THE PCF HAS DROPPED TO 17 PERCENT FROM ITS USUAL INTERELECTION 22 PERCENT WHILE PS STRENGTH REMAINS WELL ABOVE 30 PERCENT.



10. AT MONTH'S END, GISCARD COULD LOOK BACK UPON A  
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REASONABLY SATISFACTORY PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCE IN  
MARCH. HIS BLAND MARCH 25 FIRESIDE CHAT -- THESE

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

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SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INT-05 LAB-04 AID-05 CIEP-01 STR-04

TAR-01 /126 W  
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P R 091917Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8324  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
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TELEVISED CONVERSATIONS ARE BECOMING A MONTHLY RITUAL --  
WAS CRITICIZED IN THE PRESS FOR SIDESTEPPING FRANCE'S  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; WHILE CLAIMING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS  
WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION, GISCARD AVOIDED  
THE SPECTRE OF CONTINUED RISING UNEMPLOYMENT (REF C).  
BUT GISCARD'S POPULARITY, AS MEASURED IN THE OPINION  
POLLS, REMAINED STEADY. ONE POLL INDICATED THAT 56 PER-  
CENT (THE SAME FIGURE AS IN FEBRUARY) OF FRENCHMEN ARE  
SATISFIED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE; ANOTHER  
SHOWED THAT 62 PERCENT WERE CONFIDENT GISCARD COULD  
HANDLE A CRISIS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF 1968; AND A THIRD  
SUGGESTED THAT 63 PERCENT OF FRENCHMEN WERE CONVINCED  
OF THE PRESIDENT'S "GOODWILL." MORE CONCRETELY, A  
POLL TAKEN IN FEBRUARY AND PUBLISHED LAST MONTH SHOWED  
THAT, NINE MONTHS AFTER THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION,  
FRENCHMEN PREFERRED GISCARD OVER HIS RIVAL FRANCOIS  
MITTERRAND BY A MARGIN OF 52 TO 48 PERCENT (AN IDENTICAL  
POLL IN NOVEMBER GAVE MITTERRAND THE EDGE, 53 TO 47  
PERCENT). THE POLL BLAMED MITTERRAND'S LOSS ON THE  
PS/PCF QUARREL, WHILE ATTRIBUTING GISCARD'S RISE TO  
HIS HAVING REGAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF SWING VOTERS WHO  
WERE UNDECIDED IN NOVEMBER. AS HIS GOVERNMENT BUSIES  
ITSELF PREPARING A NEW PACKAGE OF REFORMS FOR  
PRESENTATION TO THE SPRING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION,  
GISCARD MAY FEEL HE IS RIDING IF NOT A TIDE, THEN  
CERTAINLY A SWELL, OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN HIS STEWARD-  
SHIP.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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